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Southern Statesmen of the Old Régime. By WILLIAM P. TRENT, M.A., Professor in the University of the South. [Library of Economics and Politics, Vol. XIII.] (New York and Boston: Thomas Y. Crowell and Company. 1897. Pp. xv, 293.)

THE general trend of Mr. Trent's latest work is the same as that of his others; and therefore a brief consideration of his position may not be out of place. Mr. Trent is one of a few Southern writers who have taken a strictly scientific and independent attitude towards delicate constitutional and political questions, and, what is more striking, who have arrived at conclusions diametrically opposed to the orthodox views of their section. This characteristic alone would have given him notoriety, even if his work had lacked intrinsic merit; and certainly it explains in part the peculiar reputation he enjoys. Mr. Trent's attitude in the book under review merits nothing but commendation; but it would have been in better taste for him to let his work evidence his attitude and to avoid any specific expression of his determination not to be turned from his conclusions "by unstinted personal abuse."

This volume is a collection of lectures which were delivered before the University of Wisconsin, at Madison, in 1896. The lecture form is retained, and no substantial changes have been made. Mr. Trent's object, as he tells us, was to state in a broad and general way what sort of men Washington and Jefferson and Randolph and Calhoun and Stephens and Toombs and Davis were, what they have stood for in our history, how they are to be ranked as statesmen, and why and how far their memories are to be honored and respected; and to do this in a way sufficiently popular to interest readers who might be repelled by formal histories and biographies. He protests that he is not a specialist, and that he does not undertake primarily to add to our knowledge of facts. He does claim, however, to have emphasized more strongly than any one else has done certain characteristics of his subjects, and to have treated Jefferson Davis more fairly than he has been treated by most historians. He approaches his task "from the point of view of an American who is at the same time a Southerner, proud enough of his section to admit its faults, and yet to proclaim its essential greatness."

Washington, Jefferson, Randolph, Calhoun, Stephens, Toombs, and Jefferson Davis are the men whom Mr. Trent selected as representatives of the Old Régime. Mr. Trent forestalls criticism of this selection. It is to be regretted that Marshall and Madison are not included, and, it might be added, that Randolph was not omitted. All that Mr. Trent says of the last only emphasizes more strongly his striking lack of the essential qualities of a statesman. Mr. Madison is too little appreciated to-day; and it is unfortunate that Mr. Trent should have dismissed him with the statement that "he is in many respects simply a follower of Jefferson." It is especially desirable that Marshall should be kept before Southern people. They are too apt to forget that there were men in the South who took the national view of the Union. It occurs to very few that

most of the great popular heroes of the South may be appealed to in support of theories at variance with the orthodox Southern theory of the nature of the Union. Certainly Washington, Jackson and Marshall may be mentioned; and even Patrick Henry and James Madison. And it is overlooked that the first official refutation of the Southern theory was over the signature of a Southerner, President Jackson, and over the counter-signature of another Southerner, Edward Livingston. It is high time that more attention should be paid to the considerable minority, of which these men are types.

The view that Mr. Trent presents of Washington, Jefferson, and Randolph is substantially that unfolded in the "American Statesmen" series; the view of Calhoun, that set forth in Von Holst's works. They are in short the accepted views. What he has to say of Stephens and Toombs and Davis will be new to many of his readers and interesting to all. On the whole, only a slight addition is made to our historical knowledge. Of the seven lectures, that on Calhoun is the most satisfactory and the strongest; that on Washington is open to more criticism than any other. It is marred by extravagant assertion and strained comparisons. Mr. Trent fails in his primary object of arousing genuine enthusiasm for his hero. His presentation suffers in this respect in comparison with that of Mr. Lodge or with that of Mr. Woodrow Wilson. Chapter VI. of Vol. I. and Chapters I. and VII. of Vol. II. of Lodge's *Washington* would be more successful in accomplishing Mr. Trent's object than his own lecture. His characterization of Jefferson is very happy at times. His style enables him to set forth Jefferson's subtle qualities very aptly. But he cannot be said to give a well-rounded view of any of his characters.—Judge Huger's name appears on page 189 as "Hager."

DAVID F. HOUSTON.

The Nicaragua Canal and the Monroe Doctrine. A Political History of Isthmus Transit, with special reference to the Nicaragua Canal Project and the Attitude of the United States Government thereto. By LINDLEY MILLER KEASBEY, Ph.D., R.P.D., Associate Professor of Political Science, Bryn Mawr College. (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1896. Pp. xv, 622.)

THE voluminous title of this book fails to do justice to the extent and variety of its contents. It begins with an introduction, in which the physical features of all the routes across the Central American isthmus, from Tehuantepec to Darien, are described. This is followed by "Part One—The Mercantile Period and the Absolute Monarchy—The Canal Project a Royal Monopoly." The author here touches on the economic conditions of Greece and Rome, traces the development of Europe through the first fifteen centuries of the Christian era, gives some account of the Portuguese navigators, and so by easy stages arrives at the discovery of America. Next comes in due course a brief historical sketch of Central America, and an account of the various crude suggestions of a canal